

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 SCI-06 AEC-11 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01

RSR-01 /165 W

----- 072777

P R 280900 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7406

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6516

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: PRC ANNOUNCES HYDROGEN BOMB TEST

1. PRC PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON JUNE 28 ANNOUNCED SUCCESSFUL HYDROGEN BOMB TEST OVER CHINA'S WESTERN AREA. THIS IS FIRST TEST SINCE MARCH 18, 1972 AND PROBABLY REFLECTS CONTINUING PROGRESS IN CHINA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM. WE DOUBT THAT THE EVENT, AS SOME PRESS REPORTS SPECULATE, WAS DELIBERATELY TIMED TO IMPLY ANY MESSAGE FOLLOWING THE US- SOVIET SUMMIT. IF ANYTHING, THE CHINESE MAY HAVE DELAYED THE EXPLOSION UNTIL AFTER THE SUMMIT CONSIDERING THAT THIS WOULD BE LESS PROVACATIVE THAN IF IT HAD BEEN HELD BEFORE THE MEETING. CONSIDERATION OF WORLD REACTION ALSO APPARENTLY DID NOT
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FIGURE IN THE TIMING AS
FROM A PUBLIC RELATIONS VIEWPOINT IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN
ADVISABLE TO HAVE WAITED UNTIL AFTER THE FORTHCOMING FRENCH TEST.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT REITERATES THAT CHINA' S TESTING IS DEFENSIVE
AND AIMED AT SHATTERING " THE MONOPOLY OF THE SUPER POWERS." BUT
IT DOES NOT REPEAT THE PREVIOUS CHARGE OF " NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL" WHICH
IMPLIED THAT THE US AS WELL AS THE SOVIET UNION WAS DIRECTLY
THREATENING CHINA. THE CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENT UNLIKE THE PREVIOUS
ALSO OMITTS ANY REFERENCE TO A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE OR TO
A
PROPOSAL FOR THE NON- USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT SIMPLY PLEDGES
THAT THE CHINESE GOVT WILL NEVER BE THE FIRST TO USE
NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
OSBORN

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: GS
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Subject: PRC ANNOUNCES HYDROGEN BOMB TEST
TAGS: PINT, CH
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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CINCPAC
LONDON
MOSCOW
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

